

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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R 310035Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT: FLETCHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO VENEZUELA

1. DURING FON MIN ESCOVAR'S RECENT US VISIT, HE SPOKE
WITH DEAN GULLION OF FLETCHER SCHOOL.

2. GULLION LISTS FOLLOWING ITEMS AS HAVING FIGURED IN
THAT DISCUSSION, ALL IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER CONTEMPLATING
CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FLETCHER AND VENEZUELA.

A. SYMPOSIUM: CONTEMPLATED REPEAT OF BOSTON SYMPOSIUM
IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER, THIS TIME IN CARACAS WITH ORGANIZA-
TION AND FUNDING BY VENEZUELA;

B. PLAN CARABOBO: PROJECT FOR RETRAINING RETIRED
VENEZUELAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN US (STATE 105606);

C. WASSILY LEONTIEFF: FLETCHER TO PLAY INTERMEDIARY
AND FACILITATIVE ROLE BETWEEN GOV AND LEONTIEFF LOOKING
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TOWARD LATTER'S INVOLVEMENT IN GOV PLANNING;

D. MORTON OFFER: FLETCHER REMAINS READY TO PLAY A
ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SECRETARY MORTON'S OFFER TO
SHARE US RESEARCH ON NON-PETROLEUM ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

(STATE 119383);

E. FOREIGN AFFAIRS REORGANIZATION: FOREIGN MINISTER
REPORTEDLY WANTS FLETCHER SCHOOL ASSISTANCE IN REVIEWING
AND REORGANIZING VENEZUELA'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND FOREIGN SERVICE.

3. WITH REGARD ITEM 2-E ABOVE, GULLION INDICATES FOMIN
WANTS 4-5 MAN TEAM TO CONDUCT STUDY OVER 3-4 MONTH PERIOD
WITH ULTIMATE GOAL OF MODERNIZING AND RENDERING MORE
EFFICIENT VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESTABLISHMENT BOTH
IN CARACAS AND ABROAD. FLETCHER HAS SOME UNEASINESS OVER
POSSIBLE REACTION IN VENEZUELA AND INCLINES TOWARD
APPROACH INVOLVING MORE TIME AND LESS VISIBILITY.
MEANWHILE DEAN GULLION ASKS IF EMBASSY HAS ANY READILY
AVAILABLE BASIC MATERIAL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY SUCH AS SIZE,
ORGANIZATION, UTILIZATION OF CAREER SERVICE PRINCIPLE,
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MECHANISM AT HOME
AND ABROAD, RECENT CHANGES OR REORGANIZATION OR PROPOSALS
THEREFORE, AND SUGGESTED SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

4. COMMENT: DURING HIS VISIT HERE ESCOBAR TOLD LUERS
ABOUT HIS PLANS TO HAVE FLETCHER ASSIST IN RESTRUCTURING
FOREIGN MINISTRY. LUERS TRIED HARD TO DISCOURAGE ESCOBAR
WHO STRESSED THAT SINCE FLETCHER IS PRIVATE INSTITUTION
THERE WOULD NOT BE PROBLEMS. WE ARE STILL CONCERNED,
HOWEVER, THAT INEVITABLY FLETCHER WILL WANT TO DRAW ON
FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND TRY TO INVOLVE
THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY. WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO
BE HELPFUL, WE WOULD HATE TO CONTRIBUTE IN ANY WAY TO
SABOTAGING UNWITTINGLY ESCOBAR'S CLEARLY MODERATE AND
FRIENDLY INTENTIONS TOWARD US. WE WOULD LIKE YOUR
THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER BEFORE RESPONDING TO GULLION'S
REQUEST. INGERSOLL

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